



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1977

## NEW EQUIPMENT FOR TRACKING TYPHOONS

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A SOPHISTICATED VIDEO RECORDING SYSTEM, THE FIRST OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD HAS BEEN INSTALLED AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY TO HELP TRACK THE DEVELOPMENT AND MOVEMENT OF TROPICAL CYCLONES.

SPECIALLY BUILT IN ENGLAND ON SPECIFICATIONS GIVEN BY THE HONG KONG ROYAL OBSERVATORY, THE VIDEO TIME-LAPSE SYSTEM USES VIDEO TAPE TO RECORD ECHOES, CAUSED BY TROPICAL CYCLONES OR HEAVY RAINSTORMS, PICKED UP BY THE R.O.'S RADAR.

THE MAIN ADVANTAGE OF USING VIDEO TAPES, ACCORDING TO A SPOKESMAN FOR THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY, IS THAT IT ALLOWS IMMEDIATE PLAYBACK SO THAT A STORM'S MOVEMENT AND INTENSITY CAN BE CONTINUOUSLY TRACED AND COMPARED.

+THIS IS MUCH BETTER THAN THE OLD SYSTEM WHICH USES A MOVIE CAMERA TO TAKE PICTURES OF THE TROPICAL CYCLONE, AS SHOWN THROUGH ECHOES PICKED UP ON THE RADAR, ONCE EVERY 24 SECONDS.

+FILMS TAKE A LONG TIME TO PROCESS AND IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO ACCURATELY COMPARE THE LATEST SITUATION WITH THAT OF, SAY, THREE OR FOUR HOURS AGO.

+THE NEW SYSTEM ENABLES US TO IMMEDIATELY SEE THE STORM'S MOVEMENT AND INTENSITY DURING DIFFERENT STAGES OF ITS DEVELOPMENT, AND SHOULD PROVIDE US WITH A BETTER FOOTING ON WHICH TO PREDICT ITS FUTURE MOVEMENT,+ HE SAID.

ANOTHER ADVANTAGE OF THE NEW SYSTEM IS THAT IT HAS A MUCH MORE FLEXIBLE CHOICE OF TIME-LAPSE FOR TAKING VIDEO TAPE RECORDINGS.

+WHILE THE OLD SYSTEM HAS A FIXED TIME-LAPSE OF ONE PICTURE EVERY 24 SECONDS, THE NEW SYSTEM CAN TAKE RECORDINGS AT A FREQUENCY RANGING FROM FOUR EVERY FIVE MINUTES TO ONE EVERY 15 MINUTES,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+THIS CHOICE WILL ENABLE US TO SAVE A LOT ON VIDEO TAPES WHILE TRACKING A SLOW-MOVING OR SLOW-DEVELOPING TROPICAL CYCLONE,+ HE ADDED.

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WHEN A TROPICAL CYCLONE COMES WITHIN 240 NAUTICAL MILES OF HONG KONG, ECHOES ARE PICKED UP BY THE R.O.'S RADAR IN FEI NGO SHAN AND MICROWAVES ARE SENT BACK TO THE CENTRAL FORECASTING OFFICE IN TSIM SHA TSUI.

THE MICROWAVES ARE THEN DIGITISED AND CLEAR IMAGES, ENABLING R.O. OFFICERS TO SEE AT A GLANCE ALL DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN THE AREA, ARE SHOWN ON A SCREEN.

THESE IMAGES ARE RECORDED BY THE VIDEO TIME-LAPSE SYSTEM AND CAN BE PLAYED BACK FOR CAREFUL ANALYSIS ANYTIME REQUIRED.

COPIES OF THE RECORDINGS CAN ALSO BE MADE AND SENT TO OTHER WEATHER INSTITUTIONS FOR RESEARCH AND ACADEMIC PURPOSES.

THE NEW SYSTEM, WHICH CAN ALSO BE USED FOR TRACKING THUNDERSTORMS AND OTHER NATURAL PHENOMENA SUCH AS BIRD MIGRATION, IS ALREADY FULLY OPERATIONAL AND THE OLD SYSTEM WILL IN FUTURE ONLY BE USED AS A RESERVE.

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#### TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENT IN ABERDEEN

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT HAS ANNOUNCED THAT A 24-HOUR URBAN CLEARWAY (FRANCHISED BUSES EXEMPTED) RESTRICTION WILL BE IMPOSED IN WU NAM STREET ON THE NORTH SIDE BETWEEN ABERDEEN MAIN ROAD AND TUNG SING ROAD, AND ON THE SOUTH SIDE BETWEEN ABERDEEN MAIN ROAD AND CHENGTU ROAD FROM 10 A.M. ON WEDNESDAY (FEBRUARY 23).

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE PUT UP TO INDICATE THE RESTRICTION.

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SAND MONOPOLY DEPOT FOR KOWLOON BAY  
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THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT IS EXTENDING ITS FACILITIES FOR MANUFACTURED SAND TO KOWLOON, SAVING USERS ON THE MAINLAND THE TROUBLE OF HAVING TO TRANSPORT THE SAND ACROSS THE HARBOUR FROM HONG KONG ISLAND.

THE NEW FACILITY WILL BE OPENED TOWARDS THE END OF MARCH AT KOWLOON BAY.

THE P.W.D. FIRST BEGAN PRODUCING MANUFACTURED SAND -- A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL ALTERNATIVE TO MARINE SAND FOR USE IN PLASTERS, MORTARS AND CONCRETE -- IN OCTOBER LAST YEAR.

AT PRESENT IT IS SOLD ONLY AT THE P.W.D.'S SAND MONOPOLY DEPOT AT NORTH POINT, BUT WILL SOON BECOME AVAILABLE AT THE NEW KOWLOON BAY SAND MONOPOLY DEPOT.

MR. DICK PILLING, SENIOR ENGINEER OF THE P.W.D.'S QUARRIES SECTION, SAID TODAY MANUFACTURED SAND OFFERED CERTAIN DISTINCT ADVANTAGES OVER MARINE SAND.

+ITS GRADING IS CONTROLLED AND CONSISTANT, IT CONTAINS NO SALT, SHELLS OR OTHER DELETERIOUS MATTER AND ITS COLOUR TOO IS CONSISTANT, MAKING IT AN IDEAL SUBSTITUTE FOR MARINE SAND,+ HE SAID.

+TESTS CARRIED OUT BY THE P.W.D. MATERIALS TESTING LABORATORIES AND THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION HAVE SHOWN THAT MANUFACTURED SAND IS SUITABLE FOR ITS INTENDED USES AND, IN GENERAL, THE NEW MATERIAL IS SUPERIOR TO MARINE SAND WHICH HAS THE DISADVANTAGE OF INCONSISTENCY OF GRADING, AND SALT AND SHELL CONTENT,+ HE ADDED.

ANOTHER ADVANTAGE OF MANUFACTURED SAND, HE SAID, WAS THAT IT WAS RELATIVELY CHEAPER THAN OTHER QUARRY FINES.

SINCE ITS INTRODUCTION LAST YEAR, MANUFACTURED SAND HAS BEEN SELLING FOR \$35 PER CUBIC METRE, \$2 PER CUBIC METRE LESS THAN MARINE SAND.

IN ADDITION, THE COST OF LOADING MANUFACTURED SAND INTO PURCHASERS' VEHICLES IS ONLY \$1.80 PER CUBIC METRE COMPARED WITH ABOUT \$3.50 PER CUBIC METRE FOR MARINE SAND.

+AS WE ARE LOADING MANUFACTURED SAND BY MECHANICAL MEANS, THIS ALSO MEANS THAT LOADING CAN BE DONE MUCH MORE QUICKLY AND AVOID DELAYS,+ SAID MR. PILLING.

/HE SAID .....

HE SAID MANUFACTURED SAND WAS BASICALLY MADE BY CRUSHING GOOD QUALITY GRANITE AND EMPLOYING SPECIAL SCREENS TO GIVE THE REQUIRED GRADING CHARACTERISTICS.

THE MAXIMUM PRODUCTION CAPACITY AT THE MOMENT IS 19,000 CUBIC METRES PER MONTH. +THIS QUANTITY SHOULD HELP IMPROVE THE OVERALL CONCRETE AGGREGATE SUPPLY SITUATION BY REPLACING QUARRY FINES WHICH HAVE FOR A LONG TIME BEEN IN RATHER SHORT SUPPLY,+ HE SAID.

MANUFACTURED SAND IS SOLD THROUGH THE GOVERNMENT SAND MONOPOLY SALES OFFICES IN THE SAME WAY AS MARINE SAND.

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HANDBOOK ON GUARDING METHODS FOR MACHINES  
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A HANDBOOK ON THE EFFECTIVE GUARDING OF DANGEROUS PARTS OF MACHINERY AND PLANT HAS BEEN PRODUCED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT FOR THE GUIDANCE OF PROPRIETORS OF INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS.

THE 52-PAGE HANDBOOK, WRITTEN IN ENGLISH AND CHINESE, IS BEING DISTRIBUTED FREE OF CHARGE TO FACTORY OWNERS AND EMPLOYERS.

IT SETS OUT THE GUARDING STANDARDS REQUIRED BY THE NEW FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (GUARDING AND OPERATION OF MACHINERY) REGULATIONS 1976 WHICH COMES INTO EFFECT ON APRIL 1.

IT ALSO HIGHLIGHTS THE FIVE PRINCIPLE GUARDING METHODS FROM WHICH A PROPRIETOR CAN CHOOSE ONE OR A COMBINATION OF SEVERAL TO ADOPT FOR THEIR MACHINE GUARDS.

IN ADDITION, THE HANDBOOK CONTAINS 30 PAGES OF EXAMPLES AND ILLUSTRATIONS OF THE 17 GROUPS OF DANGEROUS PARTS OF MACHINERY WHICH REQUIRE EFFECTIVE GUARDING AS DEFINED IN THE NEW REGULATIONS.

ACCORDING TO A LABOUR DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN THE HANDBOOK, TOGETHER WITH A FULL SCALE MACHINERY GUARDING EXHIBITION NOW BEING PLANNED AT THE KOWLOON RAILWAY TERMINUS IN HUNG HOM WILL FORM PART OF THE DEPARTMENT'S EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY PROGRAMME TO COINCIDE WITH THE COMING INTO FORCE OF THE NEW REGULATIONS.

THE EXHIBITION, WHICH WILL RUN FROM MARCH 11 TO 20, WILL FEATURE DISPLAYS OF MACHINERY WITH MOCK UP ACCIDENTS TO DRIVE HOME THE DANGERS OF UNGUARDED MACHINERY AND THE NECESSITY FOR EFFECTIVE MACHINE GUARDS IN INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENTS.

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